Protecting Hoosiers from Secondhand Smoke

Each year in the United States, an estimated 50,000 deaths are attributable to secondhand smoke breathed by nonsmokers. Of these deaths, 3,000 are due to lung cancer, 46,000 due to heart disease and approximately 430 to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) each year. An estimated 1,200 people in Indiana die prematurely each year due to secondhand smoke exposure.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that:

- Smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke in workplace.
- Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure.
- Blue collar and service employees are less likely than white-collar indoor workers to be covered by smoke-free policies.
- Workplace smoking restrictions lead to less smoking among workers.

Indiana is making progress but is lagging behind the rest of the U.S. in terms of comprehensive coverage. Currently, 41 communities (including the Indianapolis International Airport) have passed local smoke-free air policies; 35 of these laws restrict smoking in most public places. With the addition of the statewide smoke-free air law in 2012, 100% of the population is covered by some type of smoke-free air law.



Nineteen communities in Indiana (Delaware Co., Hancock Co., Johnson Co., Monroe Co., Vanderburgh Co., Vigo Co., Bloomington, Cumberland, Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Franklin, Greencastle, Indianapolis, Lawrence, Plainfield, Terre Haute, West Lafayette, and Zionsville) have passed comprehensive smoke-free air ordinances which cover all work places, including bars, ensuring all workers are protected from secondhand smoke. These nineteen comprehensive ordinances cover 31% of all residents in Indiana.

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Smoke free states and cities worldwide

- Across the U.S., there are currently over 22,400 municipalities with local laws in effect that restrict where smoking is allowed. These include some of the largest cities, such as New York City, Los Angeles, San Diego, Dallas, San Francisco, and Boston.
- Twenty-three states have passed comprehensive state-wide smoke free air laws, which protect all workers equally: Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.
- Entire countries that are smoke free include Ireland, France, Hong Kong, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Malta, Uganda, Bhutan, Italy, Quebec, Canada, Scotland, Bermuda, and Spain, among others.

Hospitals, Health Care Centers, and Behavioral Health Treatment Centers

- Throughout Indiana, 141 hospitals have a tobacco-free campus policy. All 34 critical access hospitals have implemented a tobacco-free policy.
- Forty-one (41) mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities have a system-wide tobacco free policy.

University and College Campuses

• Currently 52 Indiana college and university campuses are tobacco-free. This includes 8 campuses in the Indiana University system (all except for IPFW), most Ivy Tech campuses around the state, and Purdue University's Calumet and North Central campuses.

School Districts

• Sixty-three (63) counties have all tobacco-free schools districts providing 82% of our youth with protection from secondhand smoke at school.

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